

## BOOK NOTICE

SULA VANDERPLANK, BENJAMIN T. WILDER, AND EXEQUIEL EZCURRA. 2014. **Descubriendo la Biodiversidad Terrestre en la Región de Cabo Pulmo/Uncovering the Dryland Biodiversity of the Cabo Pulmo Region.** (ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-43-0, pbk). Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A., and Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers, nextgensd.com. (**Download:** <http://ow.ly/yhaFW>). Free pdf, 118 pp., color photos, tables, maps, 8½" × 11".

*From the publisher:* An international multi-disciplinary team of scientists recently published a report on the terrestrial biodiversity of the Cabo Pulmo region in Baja California Sur, Mexico. These very lands are the site of the proposed mega development project Cabo Dorado. The scientists demonstrate that the desert lands adjacent to Cabo Pulmo, the singular coral reef ecosystem of the Gulf of California, harbor high levels of biodiversity, much of which is only found in this remarkable coastal setting. Their report, *Uncovering the Dryland Biodiversity of the Cabo Pulmo Region*, despite the developers' assessment to the contrary, shows that the project is situated in an area of extreme conservation value, the center of which is Punta Arena, an idyllic beach setting proposed to be completely cleared to make way for 20,000+ hotel rooms.

The November 2013 survey, despite only a week in duration, documented 560 plants and animals (392 species of plants, 44 mammals, 29 reptiles, and 95 birds) on the land surrounding Cabo Pulmo, 400 more than were presented in the "Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental" (environmental impact statement) for the Cabo Dorado project. Among the species overlooked in the MIA are 27 plants and animals on the Mexican endangered species list (NOM-059) and 83 endemic species, those found only in this region and nowhere else in the world.

With an understanding of the biological richness of the beautiful, diverse, and coveted lands of the Cabo Pulmo region in hand, it is hoped that conservation strategies that can balance ecological integrity and development pressures can be established.